A Solomonic Resolution Framework for the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict: A Symbolic and Strategic Equilibrium Model

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***Abstract*—The ongoing war in Ukraine represents one of the most intractable geopolitical conflicts of the 21st century. Conventional resolution methods—ranging from military dominance to classical diplomacy—have proven inadequate. Inspired by the ancient logic of King Solomon, this paper proposes a Solomonic framework: a symbolic, mutually painful yet strategically balanced solution that neither yields full victory nor demands total capitulation. We present a structured approach involving territorial duality, symbolic restitution, neutral status guarantees, and a model of transitional justice rooted in truth and reconciliation. This hybrid construct aims to de-escalate tensions, preserve national dignity on both sides, and prevent future escalations in the broader Eurasian region.**

***Index Terms*—Ukraine, Russia, Peace Negotiation, Solomonic Justice, Geopolitics, Conflict Resolution, Neutrality, Transitional Justice**

I. Introduction

The Russo-Ukrainian conflict, intensified since February 2022, has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties, widespread displacement, and severe economic and geopolitical disruptions. While both Ukraine and Russia pursue mutually exclusive objectives—sovereignty and territorial integrity on one side, regional influence and security guarantees on the other—international actors have struggled to define a viable roadmap to peace.

This paper investigates whether a *Salomonic* logic—named after the biblical King Solomon's method of exposing truth through symbolic partition—can inform a practical, moral, and strategically sustainable solution.

II. Philosophical Basis: What Is a Solomonic Resolution?

King Solomon's famous verdict was not to cut the baby in half, but to reveal which party truly prioritized life over ownership. In the geopolitical sphere, a Salomonic solution offers neither total victory nor utter loss but instead reveals underlying intentions, providing a symbolic structure that satisfies deep-seated psychological, cultural, and strategic needs.

III. Key Conflict Dimensions

A. Territorial Disputes

The status of Crimea and the Donbas region remain pivotal. Russia currently controls Crimea de facto, while parts of Donbas are contested or occupied.

B. Security and Sovereignty

Ukraine seeks NATO and EU integration, while Russia views NATO expansion as an existential threat.

C. International Stakes

The conflict serves as a proxy theater for broader tensions among NATO, the EU, the U.S., China, and other global powers.

IV. The Solomonic Proposal

We outline the following five-point proposal:

A. Shared Donbas Sovereignty

Establish a 10-year joint administration of Donbas under Ukraine-Russia-UN oversight, with eventual plebiscite mechanisms under international law.

B. Symbolic Crimea Arrangement

Maintain Russia's de facto control over Crimea but allow Ukraine a symbolic presence, such as consular access, cultural representation, and flag rights in key locations.

C. Neutrality With European Anchor

Ukraine declares a 20-year military neutrality with binding international security guarantees, coupled with full integration into EU structures, excluding NATO.

D. Anonymous Reconstruction Fund

Establish a multi-national, politically neutral reconstruction fund, potentially with covert Russian contributions, modeled on post-WWII recovery plans.

E. Truth and Reconciliation Mechanism

Replace war tribunals with a global Truth Commission that documents wartime violations without singular criminalization, inspired by South Africa's model.

V. Expected Benefits

- **Face-saving outcomes** for both nations.
- **Reduced escalation risk** in Eastern Europe.
- **Stabilization of energy and food chains**.
- **Space for long-term reconciliation** via shared symbolic narratives.

VI. Limitations and Objections

Critics may argue the proposal risks moral equivalency, lacks enforcement mechanisms, or appeases aggressors. However, this logic misunderstands the framework's core: symmetry in pain, not in justice evasion.

VII. Conclusion

While peace is not a zero-sum endpoint, sustainable equilibrium demands more than treaties and sanctions. A Solomonic resolution offers a third path—symbolically just, strategically realistic, and structurally sound.

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